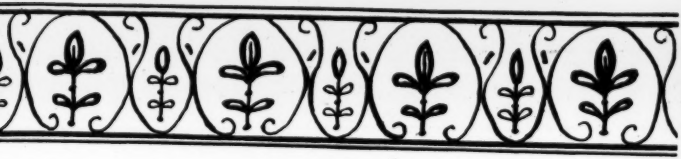
THE LADDER



VI

ANNIVERSARY EDITION

OCTOBER 1961 • 50¢

purpose of the Daughters of BILITIS

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

1. Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications—this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.

2. Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.

3. Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

4. Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law in the state legislatures.

the Ladder

October 1961
Volume 6, Number 1

Published monthly by the Daughters of Bilitis, Inc., a non-profit corporation, 1232 Market Street, Suite 108, San Francisco 2, California. Telephone: UNderhill 3 - 8196.

NATIONAL OFFICERS, DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC.

President — Jaye Bell
Vice President — Helen Sanders
Recording Secretary — Dottie Dee
Corresponding Secretary — Chris Hayden
Public Relations Director — Jo Carson
Treasurer — Ev Howe

THE LADDER STAFF

Editor — Del Martin
Assistant Editor — Elaine Kingston
Los Angeles Reporter — Sten Russell
Production Manager — Patty Patterson
Circulation Manager — Cleo Glenn

THE LADDER is regarded as a sounding board for various points of view on the homophile and related subjects and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization.

contents

DOB's Anniversary Message from the President.....4
For Want of a Chance.....10
Bergler on the Air.....14
TV Critics Praise 'Rejected'.....17
DOB Convention Highlights.....20
Editorial - Don Slater.....21
Here and There.....22
Lesbiana.....23
Readers Respond.....24

Cover by Mell

DOB ANNIVERSARY
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Daughters of Bilitis has completed six years of what we feel to be progressive work in the homophile movement, having started in 1955 with eight women; publishing our first issue of our monthly magazine, THE LADDER, in October, 1956; incorporating in the state of California in 1957; and in 1960 growing from an organization centered in San Francisco to a nation-wide organization with chapters in San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and New Jersey, with a possibility of two more chapters coming up soon.

The purposes of the Daughters of Bilitis are, in short, education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and social aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make an adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications; education of the public; participation in research; and investigation of the penal code.

We feel that much of our progress in the movement has necessarily filled the gap which ONE and Mattachine do not particularly cover in their work, namely that of: 1, paying particular attention to the individual homosexual; 2, instigating our own research on the homosexual; and 3, offering the most complete reportorial coverage of the homophile movement itself.

Although Mattachine and ONE have both accomplished much in the broad field of acceptance for the homosexual, we feel the possibilities here are definitely limited if the individual homosexual is lost in the shuffle. For while we are busy trying to teach the public that the homosexuals they see causing a problem are only a small part of the whole homosexual population, this minority is still the representation the public sees. This is in many ways like trying to teach a child to eat liver by telling him how tasty it can be, while all the liver you set in front of him to eat is burnt, pan-fried offerings. He just isn't going to be very well convinced.

Granted, all the organizations together are never going to be able to gather up all the ones who seem compelled to flaunt their homosexuality at society and, shall we say, "show them the better life," but slowly and surely we can help slow down the breeding of this defiance. How? There are several ways now and more will become evident in the future. One, of course, is through all our publications, trying to show the importance of all homosexuals' using discretion - not conformity, but discretion.

But of all the methods of reaching the individual homosexual, we feel none to be more successful than that of personal association. We are in a small but increasing proportion reaching more and more individuals in this way through our chapters throughout the country. We believe that one of the first axioms for social acceptance is self-acceptance. Where better to start finding self-acceptance than in a group of people who are themselves in varying stages of finding their own self-acceptance through group acceptance. This applies particularly to the younger people coming up. These are the people we must be aware of if we wish to stop the breeding of defiance toward society.

Where do they go first to make contacts with other homosexuals? The bars, of course. Bars have their place, yes, but only the people with real strength can fight their way out of the example they see there that reeks of defiance, disillusionment, and despair. The defiance, disillusionment, and despair, we all know, lie there under the mask of "gaiety" which the nucleus of habituals at the bars put on! Some have been so long on the underside of the coin that they are afraid of the side toward the sun. But for those who want it, let's try showing it to them. And while there are many we won't be able to reach, we can at least stop some of this antagonism toward society - which profits no one. By the sunny side of the coin I am simply referring to the place in society each person can find and enjoy, regardless of sexual preference, when he learns that home life and public life mix like oil and water - and will do so for a long time to come.

Perhaps some may feel we are advocating conformity. We are, when it comes to common courtesy to those who are yet so uneducated that homosexuals strike as much fear in them as do child molesters, dope addicts, the mentally ill, etc.

This is outward conformity, the same outward conformity demanded of numerous groups of people who are in positions foreign to the public at large. For instance, the ex-convict, the alcoholic or the conscientious objector. All these people, and many more, must refrain from talking to the majority of society of parts of their lives lest they put themselves under the heel of many social pressures. To do other than conform outwardly would hurt them personally and be of no avail until the public is better informed.

Conformity in one's personal life is another matter. As stated above, one of the principal things we are working for is individual self-acceptance. It is also true that anyone who has really found his own self-acceptance does not need to seek approval or defiantly display himself to society, be he homosexual or heterosexual.

Because of our view that discretion can sometimes be the better part of valor, we are often considered weak in our action. When this feeling of our being weak is conceived, however, it can only be done without a thorough knowledge of our working, for we have always taken a strong position on any infringement of rights or harrassment of homosexuals simply because they were homosexuals. To be specific, if a homosexual defies the law, then we consider his problem with law enforcement is not discrimination because of his homosexuality. However, if he is harrassed by the law because of his homosexuality and not because of provocation on his part, then we take a strong stand and will do whatever is in our power to see justice done. For example, we have definitely taken a stand in the case of "gay" bars being judged illegal and immoral simply because homosexuals frequent them. In this matter we have repeatedly stated our disagreement with the above judgment and sent literature and invited discussion with the law enforcement agencies. For taking a stand against an action is not enough. Education must be involved if a solution is to be achieved.

While busy trying to help the homosexuals who are having problems fitting into society, we have been equally busy in the research field. In the June, 1958 issue of THE LADDER we mailed out a 4-page questionnaire to our subscribers which covered general information, family and personal history of Lesbians. To our knowledge this is

the first research project done on this scale on Lesbians on a non-clinical basis.

The results of this study were published in our September, 1959 issue. There are of course certain weaknesses, such as the absence of a control group. Also this was naturally a self-selected group answering the questionnaire. This project was not done with the presumption of its being equal to any similar studies done by persons with professional training but rather it was hoped by our initiating such a study that: 1, we could gather general data on Lesbians not likely to come to the attention of the public or professional researchers; 2, to gain an idea of the extent of response from such questionnaires by our subscribers; 3, to gain experience in framing and handling such questionnaires; and 4, to stimulate interest by publication of results so as to encourage further research.

We further extended our research by publishing the results of a comparison study between the male and female homosexual in the September 1960 LADDER.

Our purposes for doing these studies have certainly been fulfilled, for, after the reading of a synopsis of our work during our first convention in 1960, we have received innumerable requests for copies of both studies. The most noteworthy here, because of their interest in further research on Lesbians, are: Dr. Gershwin of New York, heading a research committee of the Society of Medical Psychoanalysts; Dr. Alexander Rosen of the State of California Dept. of Mental Health; and Dr. Robert Stroller of the University of California Medical Center in Los Angeles. We will soon be giving our assistance to Dr. Stroller in his research project on the investigation of the psychological, psychiatric, and sociological aspects of the lives of people with other than usual problems in sexual adjustment. Another is Dr. Ralph H. Gundlach, psychologist from New York, who has just completed a project with a committee of the Society of Medical Psychoanalysts on the male homosexual and heterosexual in therapy. Dr. Gundlach has met with us in San Francisco and stated that our comparison study on the male homosexual on a non-clinical basis was of help to them in their study and that the two studies added strength and validity to each other. Dr. Gundlach has asked for our co-operation on a study on the Lesbians

not under therapy. We are now working with him on the questionnaire to be used.

We have done a further breakdown on our study of the Lesbian since its original publication and Mrs. Bernice Engle of the Langley-Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute of San Francisco has requested permission to publish the more pertinent parts in a medical journal.

Dr. Frank Beach and Dr. John McKee of the University of California at Berkeley have offered their assistance in any further studies we might do.

On her Sept. 12 radio program Mrs. Lee Steiner, a New York psychologist, along with Mrs. Elsie Carlton and our research director, discussed a wide range of topics related to Lesbianism, with the program ending with a very gracious recognition of our research survey. It has been most gratifying to us that, although we are a group of laymen doing this study, so many distinguished professional people have spoken so highly of the project. Seeing the interest of the professional field in new thoughts and data in the homophile field is, however, even more gratifying.

We have been asked to discuss the benefit or disadvantage of having chapters. We have found that while a certain amount of time has to be spent in giving each new group the benefit of past experience, this time spent is greatly outweighed by: 1. the benefit of fresh new ideas; 2. the greater number of people carrying out the aims and purposes; 3. the benefit of our chapters' continuing to contact newsstands across the country so that we can reach an even larger number of readers; 4. the greater number of personal contacts that can be made; 5. the benefit of having more people available for assistance to professional persons and groups working in our field; and 6. above all, the opportunity to come into personal contact with more homosexuals, as we have mentioned above. We do not feel we could be making the organizational strides we are without the ever-common goal consciousness and work of the chapters.

Each of the organizations seems to be working in a manner which covers a little different ground in the common goal of trying to benefit the homosexual and the rest of society.

As long as there remains the now-existent mutual respect and friendly, competitive co-operation, I can not conceive of a situation more beneficial to the entire homophile movement.

We feel that the time has come for still another step in our growth - especially since we are now the only nation-wide organization - that of working our programs to include the male homosexual. This does not mean membership, but it does mean offering them some of the same situations for group enjoyment and acceptance. We are re-opening our public discussion groups, planning Gab 'n' Javas periodically to include the male homosexual, and are now increasing the social functions which they may attend.

As you have probably noticed, although our magazine has always worked to be one of interest to both men and women, we are now running a special "Masculine Viewpoint" section in which we more than ever welcome opinions from our male readers. This, along with our continued coverage of the other organizations' work and convention, will make for added information to all our homophile readers, as well as the professional readers.

Along the line of educating the homophile, we have also taken this literally and, as you know, started the Blanche M. Baker Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund is increasing constantly through donations from individuals, as well as from our chapters. We hope a growing number of people will see the benefit we feel to be in this program and will contribute to its growth.

As a whole, we feel that the Daughters of Bilitis has stepped off onto another plateau and is rapidly moving ahead in its aims and goals in a manner which all who have had a part in it can be proud of.

Jaye Bell, President

---

*BLANCHE M. BAKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS C/O DOB, 1232 MARKET ST., S. F. 2, CALIF.

For Want of a Chance . . .

The problem of the sex offender, the veteran with less than honorable discharge, and others just released from correctional institutions was tackled at the eighth annaul conference of the Mattachine Society, Inc., at the Hotel Whitcomb in San Francisco over Labor Day week end.

More specifically, employment and rehabilitation of these people was discussed by a panel of persons dealing directly in the field.

In opening the subject, Don Lucas, social service director of the Mattachine Society, who presided, pointed up the idea of these people as individuals of value to society, not as criminals per se. He asked what could be done to educate the public and how they could be helped in job placement.

"We have not operated on a two-way basis," admitted Joseph R. Rowan, Western Director, Citizens Action Program, National Council on Crime and Delinquency, San Francisco. "We have not been letting the public know of the problem. Most of our activity has been behind closed doors."

Mr. Rowan cited two main problems: 1, public apathy; 2, people in the rehabilitation programs have not informed the public, as they should.

"We need infusion of new ideas and new blood," he said, for the big job of changing the public image of the offender. This could be done through radio and TV and public conferences, but it must involve top level citizens on a committee level.

THE IDEA OF HALF-WAY HOUSE

Mrs. Lillian E. Stodick, secretary, Allied Fellowship Service, Hayward, California, told about the "Half-Way House" idea, a rehabilitation project which gives parolees friendship, counselling and temporary housing. The offenders are a part of their own rehabilitation,

and in operating their own project, can help the public to understand. As individuals have been helped by this group activity, they in turn become responsible for the next parolees that they might have the same opportunity.

Jan Marinissen, Rehabilitation Secretary, American Friends Service Committee, San Francisco, told of work he had been doing at San Quentin prison in trying to get employment for the prisoner before his release. The stumbling block is to obtain permission for the prisoner's temporary release in the custody of some responsible person for interview purposes. Attempts in bringing the employer to the prison have proved detrimental psychologically.

Charles Ivens, Selective Placement Interview Division, California State Department of Employment, San Francisco, noted that if good judgment was practiced in placing individuals in the right job, this would make it possible for others to be helped.

WHO CAN GET OTHERS INTERESTED?

"We need the kind of people who can get others interested in the problem, "Mr. Rowan pointed out, "and this must extend beyond the do-gooder class." He suggested top level citizens and industrial leaders. The successfully adjusted offender, too, could be used as an example.

Mr. Gilbert told of an occasion when a public committee was brought to a prison in Texas to observe first-hand the prison habitat. They arrived in the evening and so were housed over night in the cells. Although this was probably a gimmick, it was an effective way to bring home the point.

WHAT EMPLOYMENT OPEN TO OFFENDERS?

Mr. Ivens seemed to think that anything in the service type industries (waiters, etc.) would be more open to a sex offender parolee than any other type of employment.

The panel agreed generally that the sex offender would have a better chance for employment than a thief, for instance, since the thief would pose a greater threat to the employer.

Mr. Gilbert pointed out that if the parolee had offensive mannerisms, he would have to make a choice - which was more important to him - the job or his idiosyncracies.

When asked if it was wise to refer to a record or a less than honorable discharge when seeking employment, Mr. Gilbert advised, "Try to be vague without being untruthful." For example, in trying to place an individual, he might say that this person has had an emotional problem, but has been rehabilitated to a great extent.

He said he always found this to be a dilemma in these dealings, since the stigma attached to the sex offender per se could keep the person from getting the job.

A NEW BOOK ON - 'SEX'

Thane Walker, psychoanalyst and Dean of The Prosperos Academy in Honolulu, announced at the banquet his present project, writing of a new book dealing with the subject of sex. He said that he had been looking forward to doing this for a number of years because he felt that most books on the subject of sex, and especially those dealing with homosexuality, were, for the most part, misleading and contradictory in themselves.

Here Thane has been a practicing analyst for many years and has counselled thousands who in one way or another are troubled with sex problems. So far, this year, his files contain the case histories of 225 young men, most of whom are in the armed services, stationed in Honolulu. Only 25 of these young people were aware of their homosexual tendencies, if such were the case. Often times, only under the influence of alcohol had they been able to admit such desires to themselves. The problem in therapy, Thane admitted, was to discover whether the case was the one of true homosexuality or a pseudo state. It remains important to the patient that he become acquainted with his inner drives and recognize them, even though they be on the fringe area of homosexuality.

The analyst's greatest problem is combating the century-old idea of religious beliefs and, of course, social stigma. It is important to note that unless we are ble to understand and follow a natural impulse, the drive turns

to neuroticism in the majority of cases. Too many become even more lost, and in time, become psychotic. The success of Thane's advanced theories and therapy, as applied to fringe cases, is pointed up in the fact that he has 47 namesakes, who are the offspring of successful marriages following therapy. Although society might applaud this as the only success to be found, there are also the cases of happy, well-adjusted individuals who have not married, but are leading creative, fulfilling lives.

TOO FEW UNDERSTAND NATURE OF SELF

The key to successful self-acceptance sounds rather simple, until you realize how few people understand the nature of their own being. The ambi-sexual nature of all mankind, whether they know it or not, is present at birth and continues thereafter as the doublefold creative energy of life. Once this is understood, the veneer of heterosexuality or homosexuality will become less qualifying as a social standard and only individually important as either state means satisfaction and fulfillment.

"With the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima," Thane explained, "we shut the door on the past." And just as a new mathematics had to be evolved and accepted and old fallacies had to be given up in order to understand matter and its substance, so man must come to the new equation of himself. Every being on the face of the earth is born male and female, whether he accepts this truth or not. To illustrate this, a comparison to electricity was used. The bi-faceted nature of electricity is contacted through male plugs and female sockets, but they are only functional apparatus and not the essence and being of electricity.

Pure science has reached an understanding of the nature of man which is far in advance of religious and cultural dogma. With our world on the brink of self-destruction, there is just as much evidence of a bright new hope for the future. Our responsibility is only to overhaul our own social and religious concepts with the same kind of straight thinking which has brought to science the knowledge of the energy of the cosmos and of man as a native of eternity.

(Continued on page 19)

Bergler on the Air

WHEN A PANEL OF THREE PSYCHIATRISTS BROADCASTS OVER THE AIR WAVES A PLEA TO CONSIDER HOMOSEXUALS AS NEITHER CRIMINAL NOR IMMORAL, THEN MOST "ENLIGHTENED" LISTENERS WILL FEEL THAT THE CASE OF ENLIGHTENMENT IS BEING SERVED. WHEN THESE THREE PSYCHIATRISTS PLEAD TO HOMOSEXUALS THAT THEY ARE NOT CRIMINAL BUT ONLY ILL - AND CURABLE - THEN THEIR MESSAGE WILL SEEM HELPFUL AND OPTIMISTIC, OR HYPOTHETICAL AND AMBIGUOUS, DEPENDING UPON THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE "ENLIGHTENED" LISTENER. THIS PARTICULAR PANEL CONSIDERED THAT THEIR MESSAGE WAS AN OPTIMISTIC ONE. THE PANEL WAS COMPOSED OF DR. EDMUND BERGLER OF NEW YORK BALANCED BY DR. CLIFFORD SCOTT OF THE CANADIAN PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE AND DR. IRWIN STENGLE OF SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND. THIS BROADCAST, WHICH WAS HEARD RECENTLY OVER RADIO STATION KPFA-FM IN BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, WAS RECORDED AT THE WORLD PSYCHIATRIC CONGRESS IN MONTREAL, CANADA.

THE PARTICIPANTS WERE PRETTY MUCH IN AGREEMENT, NOT ONLY IN THEIR VIEW THAT HOMOSEXUALITY CAN BE TREATED SUCCESSFULLY, BUT IN THEIR IMPLICIT ASSUMPTION THAT SUCH TREATMENT, AND "MODIFICATION", IF NOT CURE, IS WITHOUT QUESTION DESIRABLE. THUS DR. SCOTT POINTED OUT THAT MANY HOMOSEXUALS DO NOT WANT TREATMENT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW THAT "A MUCH BETTER LIFE IS POSSIBLE." WHEN HOMOSEXUALS DISCOVER, TO THEIR SURPRISE, THAT THEY CAN CHANGE THEN, DR. SCOTT SUGGESTED, THE REWARDS OF A HAPPIER LIFE WILL BE THEIRS.

APART FROM ANY QUESTION OF FACT AS TO CURABILITY, IT IS CURIOUS THAT THE PUBLIC RARELY HEARS, IN PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, ANY QUESTION RAISED AS TO THE UNSPOKEN PREMISE REFERRED TO ABOVE. WHAT IS NORMAL MUST BE BEST FOR EACH AND ALL, IT IS PRESUMED, AND MUST LEAD TO GREATEST HAPPINESS FOR EACH AND ALL. HOMOSEXUALITY IS NOT NORMAL; THEREFORE, IT CANNOT EVER BE BEST FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AND CANNOT LEAD TO ANYONE'S HAPPINESS. MIGHT IT NOT BE SUGGESTED THAT THINKING PERSONS OF BROAD SYMPATHIES AND ACTIVE IMAGINATIONS ARE SOMEWHAT MORE HUMBLE IN THEIR JUDGMENT AS TO THE ROADS TO HAPPINESS? ONE IS LED TO THINK OF MONTESQUIEU'S SATIRE ON THE 18TH CENTURY PARISIANS:

"WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY THING (TO BE A PERSIAN). HOW CAN ANYONE BE PERSIAN?"

DR. BERGLER HIMSELF, AS MOST READERS PROBABLY KNOW, SPECIALIZES IN A PARTICULAR EXPLANATION FOR HOMOSEXUALITY WHICH STRESSES THE MASOCHISTIC ASPECT. IN THIS BROADCAST HE PUT IT AS FOLLOWS: "A HOMOSEXUAL IS A MAN WHO ACQUIRED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD THE UNCONSCIOUS WISH, OR TENDENCY, TO BE MISTREATED BY A WOMAN." HE IS, THEREFORE, A FUGITIVE FROM WOMEN, WHO UNCONSCIOUSLY SEEKS FROM MEN THE SAME MISTREATMENT HE FORMERLY SOUGHT FROM WOMEN. HOMOSEXUALS, SAYS BERGLER, UNCONSCIOUSLY WANT TO BE ARRESTED. HOMOSEXUALS WHO MARRY (MISCALLED BISEXUALS, IN HIS OPINION), UNCONSCIOUSLY CONSTRUCT A SITUATION WHERE THE WIFE FINDS OUT. HOMOSEXUALS WHO, AT THE UNCONSCIOUS LEVEL, TRULY DO NOT WANT TO BE "CURED" ARE DEEPLY MASOCHISTIC.

WHAT SHOULD BE SAID ABOUT ALL THIS, BESIDES ASKING FOR THE EVIDENCE? IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO GO SO FAR AS TO DISPUTE THE EXISTENCE OF PSYCHIC MASOCHISM, OR EVEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT MAY EXPLAIN SOME HOMOSEXUALITY. (NO LESS AN AUTHORITY THAN HARRY STACK SULLIVAN, THOUGH, HAD LITTLE USE FOR THE CONCEPT AT ALL.) BUT A VENERABLE ENGLISH THINKER NAMED WILLIAM OF OCCAM BACK IN THE 14TH CENTURY SAID "ENTITIES ARE NOT TO BE MULTIPLIED BEYOND NECESSITY," WHICH FREELY TRANSLATED INTO SIMPLER ENGLISH READS: WHY INVENT A COMPLICATED EXPLANATION IF A SIMPLER ONE WILL DO? LOTS OF PEOPLE LIKE TO DO LOTS OF THINGS THAT ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE NORM, THAT MAY NOT BE POPULARLY APPROVED OF,, THAT MIGHT EARN THEN CENSURE, OR GET THEM IN TROUBLE. RELIGIOUS DISSENTERS, POLITICAL MAVERICKS, AND SPACE EXPLORERS MIGHT LIKE LIVING DANGEROUSLY BECAUSE THEY ARE MASOCHISTIC, BUT THEY JUST MIGHT CONCEIVABLY LIKE THEIR PREFERRED FORM OF ACTIVITY IN SPITE OF, NOT BECAUSE OF, ITS POTENTIAL OR ACTUAL DISADVANTAGES. NOT A PERFECT ANALOGY, PERHAPS. YET BERGLER'S ATTEMPT TO TIE UP HOMOSEXUALITY WITH WHAT HE CALLS "INJUSTICE COLLECTING" APPEARED TO BE BASED ON MERE ASSERTION. IT WAS PARTICULARLY UNCONVINCING SINCE BERGLER HIMSELF CONFESSED THAT "INJUSTICE COLLECTING" MAY OR MAY NOT INVOLVE HOMOSEXUALITY. HE DID NOT STATE WHAT KINDS OF "INJUSTICE COLLECTING" DO AND WHAT KINDS DO NOT LEAD TO HOMOSEXUALITY; YET HE CONSIDERED IT A FAR MORE IMPORTANT SIGN-POST OF MALE HOMOSEXUALITY THAN FEMININITY IN MEN.

ONE MEMBER OF THE PANEL - DR. STENGLE - POINTED OUT THAT DR.

BERGLER'S THEORY DID NOT EXPLAIN EVERYTHING; HE EVEN SUGGESTED THAT BERGLER'S PATIENTS (WHOM BERGLER CLAIMS GREAT SUCCESS IN CURING) MAY NOT BE A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF HOMOSEXUALS. IT WAS CURIOUS TO NOTE THAT DR. BERGLER PERSISTED IN REFERRING TO "THE TYPICAL HOMOSEXUAL" AS THE ONE WHOM "WE SEE" IN OUR PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICE.

THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF THE KALLMAN TWIN STUDIES, INTRODUCED BY DR. STENGLE. AS READERS MAY KNOW, KALLMAN FOUND THAT FOR 90% OF IDENTICAL (ONE-EGG) TWINS REARED TOGETHER, AND FOR 75% OF THOSE REARED APART, BOTH TWINS WERE FOUND TO BE HOMOSEXUAL. THE PERCENTAGES WERE DISTINCTLY LOWER FOR NON-IDENTICAL (TWO-EGG) TWINS. THIS IS USUALLY CITED AS EVIDENCE FOR A HEREDITARY BASIS FOR HOMOSEXUALITY. DR. SCOTT POINTED OUT, RIGHTLY, THAT THESE RESULTS DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR. IDENTICAL TWINS MAY, BECAUSE OF THEIR VERY IDENTITY, HAVE A MORE CLOSELY SIMILAR ENVIRONMENT THAN NON-IDENTICAL TWINS. EVEN IF HEREDITY DOES PLAY A PART, DR. STENGLE MAINTAINED, HOMOSEXUALITY CAN STILL BE TREATED AND MODIFIED.

PERHAPS IT CAN. THERE SEEMS TO THIS WRITER TO BE NO NEED FOR HOMOSEXUALS TO RESIST THIS POSSIBILITY, AS MANY SEEM TO DO. (THEY WOULD BE RIGHT, THOUGH, IN ASKING FOR MORE CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAN IS OFTEN PRESENTED, AND THEY WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN INSISTING THAT THE NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF CHANGE NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.) NOR DOES THERE SEEM ANY REASON FOR HOMOSEXUALS TO FIGHT THE POSSIBILITY, OR PROBABILITY, THAT THERE ARE IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS. WHAT WE REALLY NEED TO SAY, AND KEEP ON SAYING, IN THIS WRITER'S OPINION, ARE THE FOLLOWING THINGS:

1. ANY GENERALIZATION MADE ABOUT THE UNCONSCIOUS WISHES OF ANY GROUP IS SUSPECT UNLESS IT IS PLAIN THAT IT IS BASED ON ANALYSIS OF A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE; FURTHERMORE, IT SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THEORIES ABOUT UNCONSCIOUS WISHES ARE NOT EASILY CAPABLE OF PROOF.

2. A DEPARTURE FROM "NORMAL" SEXUALITY NEED NOT BE UNDESIRABLE PER SE, AND NEED NOT BE THOUGHT OF AS AUTOMATICALLY REQUIRING "CORRECTION", WITHOUT CLOSE CONSIDERATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INDIVIDUAL CASE.

- FLORENCE CONRAD

TV Critics Praise 'Rejected'

San Francisco radio and TV columnists waxed enthusiastic about the hour-long presentation of "The Rejected", TV's first symposium on homosexuality produced for nationwide showing by KQED, S.F.'s educational station.

Said Terrence O'Flaherty of the "San Francisco Chronicle", "KQED was courageous to tackle what is perhaps the most taboo subject of all - homosexuality, the permanent underground. A letter from Stanley Mosk, the Attorney General of California, opened the show and set the tone for the discussion:

> "It cannot be dismissed by simply ignoring its presence. We might just as well refuse to discuss alcoholism or narcotics addiction, as to refuse to discuss this subject. It cannot be swept under the rug. It will not go away by itself. There is need to cast light into an area in which the shadows have long been deep."

Dwight Newton of the "San Francisco Examiner" noted that the program "was handled soberly, calmly and in great depth" from the points of view of Dr. Margaret Meade, anthropologist; Dr. Karl Bowman, psychiatrist; Morris Lowenthal, and Albert Bendich, attorneys; Thomas Lynch, San Francisco district attorney; Dr. Erwin Braff, U.S. Public Health Service; Rabbi Alvin Fine, The Rt. Rev. James A. Pike, Episcopal Bishop of California; and members of the Mattachine Society. "Most agreed that adult homosexuality should not be a crime."

Mr. Newton offered "congratulations to KQED and to the program's writer, John W. Reavis, Jr., for adding another cubit to TV's maturity."

Some of the documented comments must have suprised most viewers: "Thirty-seven per cent of all American males have had at least one homosexual experience after adolescence."..."Laws aimed at controlling homosexual conduct are frequently self-contradictory, totally irrational and

have proved to be unenforceable."..."It isn't found only in big cities, but everywhere, in every small community." ..."75% of the males in California with early infectious syphilis have acquired it from other males."..."The only places in Europe where ordinary homosexuality is a crime is Communist Russia, West Germany and Great Britain."... "Plenty of male homosexuals are broad shouldered, strong and the epitome of masculinity."

Rabbi Fine: "It is my interpretation of Judaism that homosexual practice is still held to be immoral, but moral problem that it is, we should regard and treat it as a psychological illness rather than a crime."

Bishop Pike: "A homosexual is like anyone else with an illness and should be cared for as such, with love and concern and interest; not casting them aside, not labelling them as evil..."

Harold Call, president of the Mattachine Society: "By and large, if these laws were changed, we might find that the homosexual is no different from anyone else except perhaps in his choice of an object of his love."

The program ended with the narrator saying, "Perhaps, with more facts and more arguments, will come the beginnings of understanding."

Transcripts of the program ($1 per copy) are available at KQED, 525-4th St., San Francisco, California.

* * * * *

65 Freed in 'Gay Bar' Case

Charges were dismissed against all but six of 71 persons who were scheduled for a "mass" trial before a jury as defendants in the Tay-Bush Restaurant "gay" raid reported in the September LADDER. The 65 dismissed, including 9 women, received a stern warning from San Francisco Municipal Judge Raymond J. O'Connor. Their discharge was granted on a motion by Deputy District Attorney Al Wollenberg, Jr., after the owner of the bar, Bob Johnson, had pleaded guilty to charges of running disorderly house and permitting dancing in unlicensed premises.

FOR WANT OF A CHANCE . . .

(Continued from page 13)

S.F. STEP-UP IN FELONY CONVICTIONS REVEALED

In the Sunday session devoted to projects being conducted in the homophile movement, the Mattachine Society reported on the trend of the San Francisco police department in conjunction with the courts to step up arrests and convictions where homosexuality is involved.

Most of the cases prior to 1960 were misdemeanors, though now there is an obvious push for felony convictions. During the first five months of 1960 there were no convictions whatsoever. From June 1960 to December 1960 there were 29 convictions and $3000 collected in fines. During this period only one person was found not guilty. From January 1961 to June 1961 there were 77 cases and $19,675 in fines. Again only one person was found not guilty. Sentences meted out were six months suspended and one to three years probation with $100 to $350 fine depending upon which of the three judges heard the case. An actual jail sentence was not given unless a minor was involved.

All of these figures represent felony charges where sodomy was involved. Most of the arrests were made from the public rest rooms in department stores or bowling alleys where the police maintained "legal peeping toms" behind two-way mirrors.

It is estimated that some 40 to 60 arrests are made per week on misdemeanor charges, there being more of these stemming from the "gay bars".

Obviously homosexuality has become "big business " to the city of San Francisco.

ONE, INC., PLANS NEW BOOK

Bill Lambert of One, Inc., announced that a new book would be published soon based on research studies on famous people in history who were homosexuals. He said that more attention should be paid to history by all the homophile groups.

DOB CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

THE DATE HAS BEEN SET - JUNE 23 - 24, 1962. THE PLACE IS LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. THE EVENT - THE SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC.

DWARFING ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THIS TIME ARE THE LOS ANGELES CHAPTER'S PLANS FOR THE '62 CONVENTION. A REGULAR SCHEDULE OF WORK PARTIES IS UNDER WAY WITH A VERITABLE BARRAGE OF LETTERS MOVING OUT TO ARRANGE FOR SUITABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AND A PROGRAM OF DYNAMIC SPEAKERS, PANELS AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WEEK END.

HOPES ARE HIGH FOR PRESENTING SPEAKERS FROM THE FIELD OF THE LAW WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE PROMULGATION OF THE MODEL PENAL CODE BY THE AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE; FROM THE FIELD OF ENTERTAINMENT WITH EMPHASIS ON THE PRODUCTION OF CONTROVERSIAL HOMOPHILE THEME MOVIES AND PLAYS; THE FIELD OF RELIGION TO PRESENT THE VIEWPOINTS OF THE MAJOR RELIGIOUS GROUPS - AND A SPEAKER OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS TO BE FEATURED AT THE LUNCHEON.

BANQUET PLANS AT THE MOMENT CALL FOR ENTERTAINMENT RATHER THAN EDIFICATION. OF COURSE, TIME HAS BEEN ALLOTTED FOR THE SOCIAL GATHERING OF OUR MEMBERS BOTH AT A RECEPTION FOR OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS AND AT A GRAND GET-TOGETHER PARTY.

WE HOPE THAT EVERY MEMBER OF DOB, EVERY SUBSCRIBER TO THE LADDER, EVERY FRIEND OF THE HOMOPHILE MOVEMENT WILL PLAN TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION. ATTEND, AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS WHO ARE NOT YET ACQUAINTED WITH THE WORK THAT DOB IS DOING. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FAR TO TRAVEL, PLAN YOUR VACATION IN SUNNY CALIFORNIA. THE L.A. CHAPTER (ALONG WITH THE LOS ANGELES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) WILL BE GLAD TO OFFER ASSISTANCE IN HOUSING AND TOURIST INFORMATION.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND HARD WORKING CONVENTION COMMITTEE PROMISES A STAR-STUDDED PROGRAM WHICH WILL HAVE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE TO THE HOMOPHILE MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE.

SO - SET THE DATE ASIDE NOW. JUNE 23-24, 1962. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING AS TO THE PROGRAM AS IT DEVELOPS. WATCH FOR THIS COLUMN IN FUTURE ISSUES OF THE LADDER.

EDITORIAL

THE DANGER OF HIRING HETEROSEXUAL MEN AND WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHERE VULNERABILITY TO INTIMIDATION AND BLACKMAIL MUST BE CONSIDERED IS VIVIDLY CONFIRMED IN THE RECENT CASE OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER IRVING CHAMBERS SCARBECK. MR. SCARBECK WAS ARRESTED BY JUSTICE DEPT. AGENTS JUNE 13, 1961, IN WASHINGTON WHERE HE HAD RETURNED FROM HIS POST AS SECOND SECRETARY IN THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN WARSAW.

HE HAD ADMITTED TURNING OVER CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO AN AGENT OF POLAND SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. SAID SENATOR J. WM. FULBRIGHT (D) OF ARKANSAS, "IT'S A VERY SAD AND DISTRESSING DEVELOPMENT. I UNDERSTAND THE ROOT OF THE TROUBLE WAS A WOMAN. I WAS INFORMED A POLISH BLONDE SEDUCED HIM AND THEN BLACKMAILED HIM." WELL, WE'RE NOT SURPRISED. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME A HETEROSEXUAL HAS PROVEN TO BE A POOR SECURITY RISK. CASE AFTER CASE IS BROUGHT TO LIGHT; YET THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOTHING TO PREVENT THIS MENACE. SCARBECK, A NATIVE OF BROOKLYN, HAS BEEN MARRIED TWICE. HIS PRESENT WIFE AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN, INCLUDING 2-YEAR-OLD TWINS, ARE NOW WITH THE WIFE'S MOTHER IN GERMANY. WHAT A PERFECT SET-UP!

LINCOLN WHITE, STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICER, IMPLIED THAT THE INFORMATION TRANSMITTED TO POLAND WAS IMPORTANT. ASKED IF THE CASE WAS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE, MR. WHITE REPLIED: "ANY ESPIONAGE IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE."

"I DO NOT THINK THE CASE WOULD HAVE GONE TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IF UNITED STATES SECURITY HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED," MR. WHITE ADDED.

THE MORE SERIOUS PART OF THE MATTER IS THAT BY NOW IT SHOULD BE WELL KNOWN THAT HETEROSEXUALS ARE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO BLACKMAIL. BUT VERY LITTLE PROGRESS SEEMS TO BE MADE IN ENLIGHTENING THE PUBLIC OR THE GOVERNMENT TO THE SITUATION. THE PRESENCE OF HETEROSEXUALS IN GOVERNMENT WORK DOES OPEN THE DOOR TO INTIMIDATION AND BLACKMAIL. FOR THIS REASON THERE SHOULD BE REGULATIONS TO MINIMIZE THE HIRING OF HETEROSEXUALS FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR RETAINING THEM IN GOVERNMENT JOBS.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE NATIONAL GOOD WE ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO BE HONEST ABOUT WHAT MAKES A SECURITY RISK AND ADOPT MEASURES WHICH WILL PROTECT OUR NATION FROM THE THREAT OF HETEROSEXUAL SECURITY RISKS.

DON SLATER

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM ONE MAGAZINE (AUGUST, 1961)

Here and There

"Homosexuality: Current Research Trends" was theme of the convention program presented over the Labor Day week end by the Mattachine Society of New York at the Hotel Commodore.

Featured on the program were: "Possibilities for Improved Laws Covering Homosexuals" by Robert V. Sherwin, secretary of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex; "The Homosexual in a Crisis Situation" by Dr. Russell G. Leiter, psychologist, Portsmouth Receiving Hospital, Ohio; "Homosexual John Doe: Citizen, Consumer, Friend" by Leslie Winston of the Winston Book Service; "Review of Research During the Past 20 Years" by Isadore Rubin, assistant publisher of Sexology Magazine; "Recent Approaches to Homosexuality in Moral Theology" by Rev. William P. Zion; "Unconscious Homosexuality" by Dr. Benjamin Karpman, chief psychotherapist, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D.C.

"Areas for Further Research" was discussed by a panel including Joseph Aranow, attorney; Dr. Phyllis Daen, psychologist: Dr. Nathaniel S. Lehrman, psychiatrist; Donald E. J. MacNamara, president of the American Society of Criminology, and Rev. C. E. Egan, Jr. Moderator was Donald Webster Cory, author of "The Homosexual in America".

* * * * *

Among the many candidates running for supervisor in the San Francisco November elections is Jose J. Sarria who declared simply that he is concerned with "equality before the law." Rumor has it that he is the "homosexual's candidate," the idea being to tally by secret ballot the voting strength of this minority group in the city of San Francisco.

LESBIANA

BY GENE DAMON

190. THE TROUBLED SEX BY CARLSON WADE. BEACON BOOKS, 1961.

THE USUAL CONGLOMERATION OF LIES AND TRUTH AND MISINFORMATION BY ACCIDENT AND MISQUOTES BY DELIBERATION. A SERIES OF CASE-HISTORIES HIGHLY FICTIONALIZED AND BORDERING ON THE SEXUALLY SENSATIONAL. THE ONLY UNUSUAL AND SALVAGING VIRTUE IN THIS COLLECTION IS THE AUTHOR'S HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE EXTREME DAMAGE DONE TO THE PERSON BY DENYING HOMOSEXUAL LEANINGS AND EMPHASIS ON THE "NORMALNESS" OF LESBIANISM FOR MANY PEOPLE.

191. MR. BALLERINA BY RONN MARVIN. REGENCY BOOKS, 1961.

A RATHER SAD LOOK AT THE VERY GAY WORLD OF THE BALLET, ACCORDING TO MR. MARVIN, EXCLUSIVELY PEOPLED WITH HOMOSEXUAL BOYS AND AN OCCASIONAL HOMOSEXUAL GIRL. BASICALLY ANOTHER OF THE CONFLICT STORIES, IN WHICH ONE CHARACTER FIGHTS AGAINST HIS HOMOSEXUALITY. THE SAN FRANCISCO BACKGROUND IS VERY COLORFUL AND THE PRESENCE OF MAJOR LESBIAN CHARACTERS WILL MAKE THIS OF INTEREST TO LADDER READERS. A FAIRLY GOOD FIRST NOVEL. MR. MARVIN WILL BEAR WATCHING.

192. THE SMALL ROOM BY MAY SARTON. NORTON, 1961

WITHOUT EXCEPTION THIS IS THE VERY BEST NOVEL YET WRITTEN USING THE DEVICE OF INTRODUCING IN A WHOLLY NATURAL MANNER A MAJOR LESBIAN LOVE AFFAIR TREATED IN A COMPLETELY FRANK, SYMPATHETIC, OFFHAND, AND UNCONCERNED WAY. THE CONFLICTS, PLOT, ITS RESOLUTION AND DEVELOPMENT ARE ALL DIVORCED FROM SEXUALITY OF THE CHARACTERS INVOLVED, AT LEAST AS FAR AS IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO THIS WITHOUT CHARACTER DESTRUCTION. THERE ARE SIX MAJOR CHARACTERS, INVOLVED IN A SCANDAL CONCERNING PLAGIARISM IN A WOMEN'S COLLEGE. HIGHLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECOMMENDED TO EVERYONE. THE NOVEL IS BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN.

READER'S RESPOND

"I HAVE BEEN A READER OF THE LADDER FOR OVER A YEAR, AND ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS I HAVE BEEN DISMAYED BY THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH HOMOSEXUALITY AND BISEXUALITY ARE REFERRED TO AS ABNORMAL, OR AS A QUIRK, OR AS A DEVIATION. I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THESE CONCEPTS ARE INACCURATE AND HARMFUL AND SHOULD HAVE NO PLACE IN OUR SOCIETY.

"IT IS TRUE THAT THE VAST UNINFORMED MAJORITY OF OUR CULTURE THINKS OF THE HOMOPHILE AS BEING 'QUEER' AND DEVIANT AND ABNORMAL. (THESE SAME FUZZY THINKERS BELIEVE THAT THE NEGRO IS 'BLACK' - A CONCEPT EASILY DISPROVEN BY COMPARING ANY NEGRO SKIN TO A PIECE OF BLACK PAPER.) ACTUALLY, THE PREVALENT CONCEPT OF 'NORMAL' IS FAULTY AND IS OFTEN USED AS A TOOL TO STRENGTHEN ALREADY EXAGGERATED DRIVES TOWARD CONFORMITY AND IN-GROUPNESS WITH THE MAJORITY. HOMOPHILES ARE AS 'NORMAL' AND AS MUCH A PART OF THE NATURAL PATTERN AS ARE HETEROSEXUALS OR BISEXUALS OR ANY-OTHER-KIND-OF-SEXUALS. RED HAIR WAS, IN TIMES LONG GONE BY, VIEWED WITH SUSPICION OR JEERED AT BECAUSE IT WAS DIFFERENT. LEFT-HANDEDNESS WAS SOMETHING TO BE TRAINED OUT OF A PERSON AT ANY COST. NOW IT SEEMS SILLY TO EVALUATE A PERSON IN TERMS OF HAIR COLOR OR HANDEDNESS. SIMILARLY, OUR SOCIETY MUST LEARN THAT IT IS IRRELEVANT TO EVALUATE IN TERMS OF SEXUALITY.

"IF YOU ARE CONGENITALLY A HOMOPHILE, ALL THE GUILT-FEELINGS AND ALL THE PSYCHIATRISTS IN THE WORLD ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE YOUR NEEDS, ANY MORE THAN THEY CAN CHANGE THE COLOR OF YOUR EYES. YOU HAVE AN EXTRA BURDEN TO BEAR AS YOU GO THROUGH LIFE IN AN UNINFORMED SOCIETY, BUT SO - IN THEIR OWN SPECIAL WAYS - HAVE ARTISTS, POETS, OR ORIGINAL THINKERS OF ANY KIND. YOUR PROBLEM IS SUCH ONLY BECAUSE SOCIETY - OF WHICH YOU ARE A PART, AND ALSO OFTEN UNINFORMED, ALAS - IS STILL UNENLIGHTENED AND UNABLE TO RELINQUISH EASILY ANY OF ITS EXISTING SCAPEGOAT GROUPS.

"IF YOUR HOMOSEXUALITY IS PRIMARILY ENVIRONMENTAL (AND I AM OF THE FIRM BELIEF THAT IT IS MUCH LESS FREQUENT THAN SOME WELL-MEANING BUT BLUNDERING AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE), AND IF IT BRINGS YOU MORE GRIEF THAN SATISFACTIONS, YOU MAY WANT TO WORK AT CHANGING THIS IN YOURSELF. OR YOU MAY DECIDE THAT YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE

YOUR LIFE AS YOU SEE FIT AND WILL WORK TO CHANGE SOCIETY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD HOMOPHILES.

"IN THE MOST RECENT ISSUE OF THE LADDER YOU PRINTED AN 'OPEN LETTER TO A LESBIAN' BY STERNHAUSER. THE KINDLY INTENTIONS MANIFESTED IN THIS ARTICLE MAY MAKE MY FOLLOWING CRITICISMS SEEM UNKIND, BUT I FEEL THEM NECESSARY SINCE IT IS APPARENT THAT THE AUTHOR HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DIVEST HIMSELF, GUT-WISE (WHERE IT COUNTS), OF THE PREJUDICES HE HAS GROWN UP WITH.

"STERNHAUSER REFERS TO HOMOSEXUALITY AS A 'QUIRK' AND SAYS '... THERE ARE MANY OF US WHO DARE NOT BE ANYTHING MORE INTERESTING THAN NORMAL.' THE UNINTENTIONAL IMPLICATION IS THAT HETEROSEXUALITY IS DULL BUT NORMAL WHILE HOMOSEXUALITY IS INTERESTING BUT NOT NORMAL. SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE READ ABOUT COMMUNITIES WHICH USED TO DISCARD THE HEART OF THE WATERMELON AS BEING UNFIT TO EAT, OR WOULD NOT EAT TOMATOES FOR THE SAME REASON. THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE MELON OR THE TOMATO THAT DID NOT LIE IN THE MISEVALUATION. SIMILARLY, THERE IS NOTHING QUIRKY OR ABNORMAL ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY SAVE AS UNINFORMED JUDGMENT MAKES IT SO.

"WHILE IT WAS GOOD TO READ STERNHAUSER'S KINDLY GENERALIZATIONS ABOUT HOMOSEXUAL SOCIETY (I.E., YOU HAVE A GREATER DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING; YOU POSSESS AN EMPATHY WHICH 'WE' NEVER HOPE TO POSSESS; YOU ARE MUCH MORE COURAGEOUS, ETC.), IT IS ALSO WELL TO KEEP IN MIND THAT SUCH GENERALIZATIONS ARE SUBTLY, OFTEN UNWITTINGLY, DEMONSTRATIVE OF THE FACT THAT IN THE GOOD STERNHAUSER'S MIND YOU ARE SOMEHOW A PEOPLE APART. SURELY MANY OF US MUST NOW BE SENSITIVE TO THE SUBTLE KIND OF PREJUDICE WHICH IS MANIFEST WHEN ONE SPEAKS OF HOW NEGROES HAVE SUCH A GOOD SENSE OF RHYTHM; OR HOW JEWS KNOW THE BEST EATING-PLACES; OR HOW OBEDIENT JAPANESE WIVES ARE, ETC. REGARDLESS OF HOW 'UNPREJUDICED' THE PERSON MAKING THESE GENERALIZATIONS MAY FEEL HIMSELF TO BE, NO MATTER HOW KINDLY HE MAY INTEND THEM AND HOW RIGHTEOUSLY INDIGNANT HE MAY BE WHEN ACCUSED OF PREJUDICE, SUCH GENERALIZATIONS MUST BE SUSPECT. THEY ARE BUT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PREJUDICE-COIN - A BETTER SIDE IT MAY SEEM, BUT PREJUDICE NEVERTHELESS. FOR A PERSON WHO THINKS IN THESE TERMS IS SOMEHOW TRYING NOBLY TO BE GENEROUS AND OPEN-MINDED BUT, ALAS, NOT QUITE MAKING IT. IT WOULD BE MORE HONEST, AND PERHAPS MORE COMFORTABLE TO STATE THAT NOT ALL (PERHAPS EVEN MOST) NEGROES HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF RHYTHM, BUT WE NOTICE THE ONES WHO DO; THAT MANY JEWS DO NOT KNOW THE BEST EATING-PLACES; AND THAT JAPANESE WIVES CAN BE

SHREW OR NOT, LIKE OTHER WIVES, AND THAT THEY ARE PERMITTED TO DEMONSTRATE THIS DIFFERENTLY IN DIFFERING CULTURES.

"WE MAY BE HOMOSEXUALS, OR BISEXUALS, OR WHATEVER, BUT NO MATTER WHAT A STEREOTYPE TRIES TO MAKE US BELIEVE ABOUT OURSELVES, WE ARE FIRST OF ALL PEOPLE - NATURAL, 'NORMAL' PEOPLE IN A LARGE PATTERN OF HUMANITY, EACH WITH HIS OWN SET OF IDIOSYNCRACIES (AS VIEWED BY THE INTOLERANT). SOME OF US ARE MORE EMPATHETIC, SOME ARE LESS; SOME COURAGEOUS, SOME NOT. WHATEVER WE ARE, LET US TRY TO ACCEPT EACH MEMBER OF HUMANITY ON THE BASIS OF HIS OWN INTRINSIC WORTH, APART FROM PREFABRICATED CONCEPTS AND PIGEON-HOLES HANDED TO US FROM A SOCIETY WHICH IS BARELY IN ITS OWN ADOLESCENCE. AND LET US NOT BE DIVERTED FROM THIS BY THE TEMPTATION OF PIGEON-HOLES AND PREJUDICES WHICH, LIKE OUR WELL-MEANING, GOOD-HEARTED MR. STERNHAUSER'S ARE MORE KINDLY INTENDED THAN SOME OTHERS."

F. B., CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

"YOUR PUBLICATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN MY EYES ONE OF FORTHRIGHT MATERIAL. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO SEE A REPORT OF THE TALK OF DR. DRELLICH BEFORE THE FORMER NEW YORK AREA COUNCIL OF THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC. (NOW KNOWN AS THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF NEW YORK). BUT DIDN'T YOU FEEL IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO MENTION BEFORE WHAT 'LARGE AUDIENCE' OR UNDER WHOSE SPONSORSHIP THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN? SINCE THE ARTICLE SHOWS NO AUTHORSHIP OR CREDIT, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT YOU PEOPLE WERE THE AUTHORS.

"WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CORRECTING THIS MISUNDERSTANDING PERHAPS IN YOUR NEXT ISSUE. WE HAVE WORKED HARD TO GET SPEAKERS OF SUCH HIGH CALIBER THAT AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT WOULD BE OUR DUE. BY THE WAY, IF THIS LETTER SEEMS A LITTLE HARSH, IT IS BECAUSE AT FIRST GLANCE I FELT WE HAD BEEN SLIGHTED. NO OFFENCE IS MEANT. I ADMIRE THE WORK YOU ARE DOING AND CERTAINLY WISH YOU ALL WELL."

ALBERT J. DE DION, CHAIRMAN
MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

EDITOR'S NOTE: SORRY, WE GOOFED. THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION IS "NEW FINDS FROM PSYCHOANALYTIC RESEARCH ON HOMOSEXUALITY" WHICH APPEARED IN THE MAY, 1961 ISSUE OF THE LADDER.

Daughters of BILITIS

INCORPORATED

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS and San Francisco Chapter: 1232 Market St. Suite 108, San Francisco 2, California

New York Chapter: P. O. Box 3629, New York, N. Y.
Los Angeles Chapter: 527 Hazel St., Glendale, Cal.

MEMBERSHIP in the Daughters of Bilitis is limited to women 21 years of age or older. If in San Francisco, New York or Los Angeles area, direct inquiry to chapter concerned; otherwise write to National Office in San Francisco.

THE LADDER: a monthly publication by the DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC., mailed first class in a plain sealed envelope for $4.00 per year.

CONTRIBUTIONS are gratefully accepted from anyone who wishes to assist us in our work. We are a non-profit corporation working entirely on donated labor. Our fees are not of such amounts as to allow for much expansion of the publication. While men may not become members of the DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC., many have expressed interest in our efforts and our publication and have made contributions to further our work. Of course, anyone over 21 years of age may subscribe to THE LADDER.

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, INC.
1232 Market Street, Suite 108,
San Francisco 2, California.

Please send THE LADDER for year(s) by first class mail sealed to the address below. I enclose $ at the rate of $4.00 for each year ordered.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY _____ ZONE__ STATE_____

*I am over 21 years of age (Signed)*_____